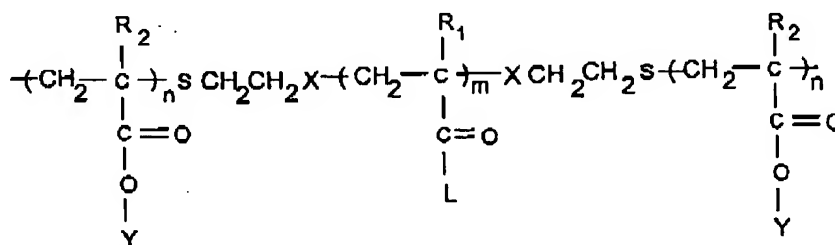


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Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The present invention relates to tri-block copolymers of molecular weight ranging between 2,000 Daltons to ~~2,00,000~~ 200,000 Daltons having formula (1), having extraordinarily high binding strength,

**Formula (1)**

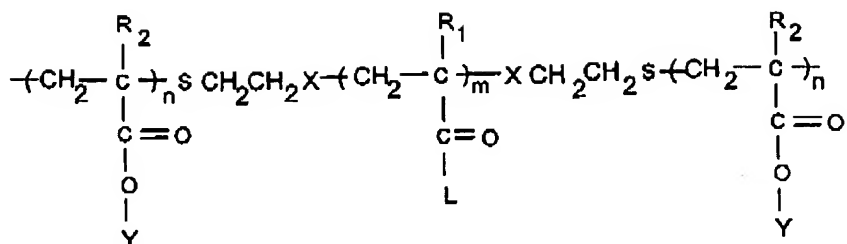
wherein,

R₁ is H, CH₃, C₂H₅, or C₆H₅; R₂ is H, CH₃, C₂H₅, or C₆H₅; here, R₂ at aforementioned two positions can be either identical or different; X is an ester or amide linkage; m is ranging from 3 to 500; n is ranging from 2 to 50; L is OH, NH₂, OCH₃, or NHCH(CH₃)₂; Y is *N*-Acetyl Glucosamine, mannose, galactose, sialic acid, fructose, ribulose, erythrose, xylulose, psicose, sorbose, tagatose, glucopyranose, fructofuranose, deoxyribose, galactosamine, sucrose, lactose, isomaltose, maltose, cellobiose, cellulose, or amylose, a simple and effective process for the preparation of the tri-block copolymers of formula (1), and a method of preventing and/or treating microbial infections, wherein the said method comprises steps of exposing the microbe to the tri-block copolymer of formula 1, and thereafter, binding of the polymer to the microbe inhibits the microbial infection.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The present invention relates to tri-block copolymers of molecular weight ranging between 2,000 Daltons to ~~2,00,000~~ 200,000 Daltons having formula (1), having extraordinarily high binding strength,

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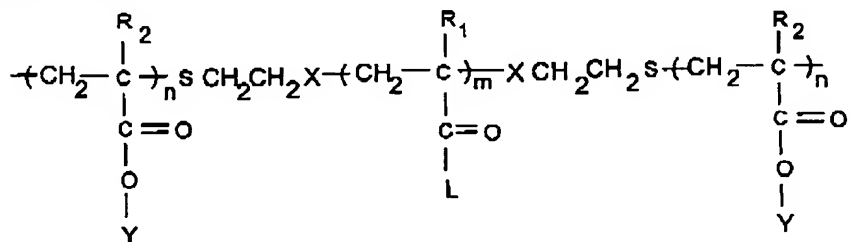
Formula (1)

wherein,

R_1 is H, CH_3 , C_2H_5 , or C_6H_5 ; R_2 is H, CH_3 , C_2H_5 , or C_6H_5 , here, R_2 at aforementioned two positions can be either identical or different; X is an ester or amide linkage; m is ranging from 3 to 500; n is ranging from 2 to 50; L is OH, NH_2 , OCH_3 , or $\text{NHCH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$; Y is *N*-Acetyl Glucosamine, mannose, galactose, sialic acid, fructose, ribulose, erythrose, xylulose, psicose, sorbose, tagatose, glucopyranose, fructofuranose, deoxyribose, galactosamine, sucrose, lactose, isomaltose, maltose, cellobiose, cellulose, or amylose, a simple and effective process for the preparation of the tri-block copolymers of formula (1), and a method of preventing and/or treating microbial infections, wherein the said method comprises steps of exposing the microbe to the tri-block copolymer of formula 1, and thereafter, binding of the polymer to the microbe inhibits the microbial infection.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Accordingly, the present invention relates to tri-block copolymers of molecular weight ranging between 2,000 Daltons to 2,00,000 200,000 Daltons having formula (1), having extraordinarily high binding strength,



Formula (1)

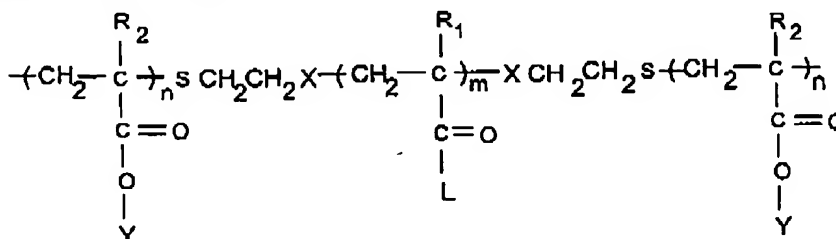
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wherein

R_1 is H, CH_3 , C_2H_5 , or C_6H_5 ; R_2 is H, CH_3 , C_2H_5 , or C_6H_5 ; here, R_2 at aforementioned two positions can be either identical or different; X is an ester or amide linkage; m is ranging from 3 to 500; n is ranging from 2 to 50; L is OH, NH_2OCH_3 , or $NHCH(CH_3)_2$; Y is *N*-Acetyl Glucosamine, mannose, galactose, sialic acid, fructose, ribulose, erythrolase, xylulose, psicose, sorbose, tagatose, glucopyranose, fructofuranose, deoxyribose, galactosamine, sucrose, lactose, isomaltose, maltose, cellobiose, cellulose, or amylose, a simple and effective process for the preparation of the tri-block copolymers of formula (1), and a method of preventing and/or treating microbial infections, wherein the said method comprises steps of exposing the microbe to the tri-block copolymer of formula 1, and thereafter, binding of the polymer to the microbe inhibits the microbial infection.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 13 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In an embodiment of the present invention, wherein tri-block copolymers of molecular weight ranging between 2,000 Daltons to ~~2,00,000~~ 200,000 Daltons having formula (1), having extraordinarily high binding strength,



Formula (1)

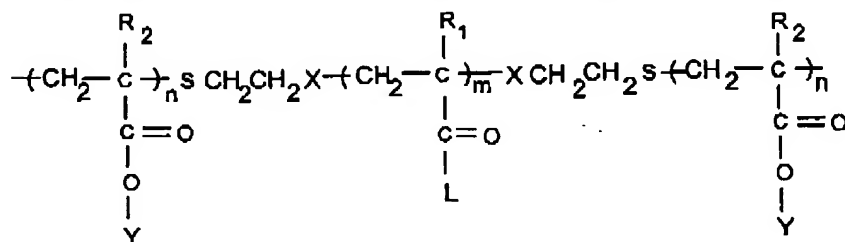
wherein,

R_1 is H, CH_3 , C_2H_5 , or C_6H_5 ; R_2 is H, CH_3 , C_2H_5 , or C_6H_5 ; here, R_2 at aforementioned two positions can be either identical or different; X is an ester or amide linkage; m is ranging from 3 to 500; n is ranging from 2 to 50; L is OH, NH_2OCH_3 , or $NHCH(CH_3)_2$; Y is *N*-Acetyl Glucosamine, mannose, galactose, sialic acid, fructose, ribulose, erythrolase, xylulose, psicose, sorbose, tagatose, glucopyranose, fructofuranose, deoxyribose, galactosamine, sucrose, lactose, isomaltose, maltose, cellobiose, cellulose, or amylose.--

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 20 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--This invention relates to tri-block copolymers containing *N*-Acetyl Glucosamine (NAG) of molecular weight ranging from 2,000 Daltons to ~~2,00,000~~ 200,000 Daltons having formula (1)



Formula (1)

wherein,

R_1 is H, CH_3 , C_2H_5 , C_6H_5 , R_2 is H, CH_3 , C_2H_5 , C_6H_5 , here, R_2 at aforementioned two positions can be either identical or different, X is an ester or amide linkage, m is from 3 to 500, n is from 2 to 50, L is OH, NH_2 and $\text{NHCH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$. Y may be *N*-Acetyl Glucosamine, mannose, galactose, sialic acid, fructose, ribulose, erythrose, xylulose, psicose, sorbose, tagatose, glucopyranose, fructofuranose, deoxyribose, galactosamine, sucrose, lactose, isomaltose, maltose, cellobiose, cellulose and amylose.--